

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINR, MY

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: HER MAJESTY THE RAJA
PERMAISURI AGUNG

REF: STATE 049557

1. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
DATE FOR THE RAJA PERMAISURI AGUNG (QUEEN), TANKU ZAINAB
BINTI TENGKU MUHAMAD PETRA, AS REQUESTED REFTEL.
(TUANKU MEASN "PRINCE" OR "PRINCESS" AND BINTI MEANS
"DAUGHTER OF...").

2. FAMILY BACKGROUND. HER MAJESTY'S FULL NAME, WITH
HONORIFICS PRECEDING AND ABBREVIATIONS FOR AWARDS FOLLOWING,
IS DULI YANG MAHA MULIA SERI PADUKA BAGINDA RAJA PERMAISURI
AGUNG TUANKU ZAINAB BINTI TENGKU MUHAMAD PETRA, D.K., D.M.N.,
S.P.M.K. SHE IS 58 AND WAS BORN IN KOTA BHARU, KELANTAN,
ON 4 AUG 1917. SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF
KELANTAN, THE NORTHEASTERNMOST STATE OF MALAYSIA, ADJACENT
TO SOUTHERN THAILAND, AND A GRANDDAUGHTER (HER MOTHER'S
SIDE) OF A FORMER RULER OF KELANTAN, THE LATE SULTAN
MUHAMAD IV., WHO REIGNED FROM 1899-1920. HER FATHER
ALSO WAS OF ROYAL LINEAGE. SHE BECAME THE RAJA
PEREMUPUAN (SULTAN'S CONSORT) WHEN HER HUSBAND, THE
CROWN PRINCE, WAS PROCLAIMED SULTAN OF KELANTAN
JUL 10, 1960, UPON THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER.

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3. EDUCATION. TUANKU ZAINAB RECEIVED HER RELIGIOUS

EDUCATION FROM PROMINENT KELANTAN ISLAMIC TEACHERS AND RECEIVED SPECIAL INSTRUCTION IN ROYAL COURT CUSTOMS AND ETIQUETTE AT AN EARLY AGE, BUT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT SHE RECEIVED ANY WESTERN EDUCATION.

4. INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES. THE RAJA PERMAISURI AGUNG HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN VARIOUS CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND HAS SERVED AS STATE ORGANIZER FOR THE POPPY DAY FUND APPEAL AND AS PRESIDENT OF THE KELANTAN GIRL GUIDES COUNCIL. HER HOBBIES ARE COLLECTING HANDICRAFTS AND ANTIQUES, AND GROWING FLOWERS.

5. FAMILY LIFE. ON JUN 4, 1939, TUANKU ZAINAB MARRIED TUANKU YAHYA PETRA IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN IBRAHIM, NOW THE YANG DEPERTUAN AGUNG, UPON THE LATTER'S RETURN TO MALAYSIA FOLLOWING SEVERAL YEARS OF STUDY IN ENGLAND. THEIR MAJESTIES HAVE FIVE CHILDREN, A SON AND FOUR DAUGHTERS. THEIR ONLY SON, TENGKU ISMAIL PETRA, THE TENGKU MAHKOTA (CROWN PRINCE), IS PRESENTLY THE REGENT OF KELANTAN DURING HIS FATHER'S ABSENCE. THEIR ELDEST DAUGHTER, TENGKU MERJAN, IS MARRIED TO MALAYSIA'S AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA, ALSO A MEMBER OF THE KELANTAN ROYAL FAMILY. THEIR SECOND DAUGHTER, TENGKU ROZAN, IS MARRIED TO KELANTAN CIVIL SERVICE OFFICER OF ROYAL LINEAGE. THEIR THIRD DAUGHTER, TENGKU SALWANI, IS THE WIFE OF A MEMBER OF THE PERAK ROYALTY. THEIR FOURTH DAUGHTER, TENGKU ROHANI, PRESUMABLY IS UNMARRIED

6. TRAVELS. THE RAJA PERMAISURI AGUNG HAS ACCOMPANIED HER HUSBAND AND THEIR CHILDREN ON VISITS TO SEVERAL COUNTRIES OVERSEAS.

7. AWARDS. THE RAJA PERMAISURI AGUNG HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING ROYAL HONORS. S.P.M.K. (FIRST ORDER OF DARJAH KEBESARAN MAHKOTA KELANTAN YANG AMAT MULIA) BESTOWED BY HER FATHER-IN-LAW, THE LATE SULTAN IBRAHIM AUG 9, 1956; K.K. (FIRST ORDER OF DARJAH KEBESARAN DARJAH KERABAT YANG AMAT DIHORMAT); AND D.M.N. (DARJAH UTAMA SERI MAHKOTA NEGARA) BESTOWED BY HER HUSBAND ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEB 28, 1976.

8. FOREIGN LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES. IT IS ASSUMED THAT HER MAJESTY CAN UNDERSTAND AND PERHAPS SPEAK AT LEAST SOME ENGLISH, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION IN THIS REGARD.

9. COMMENT: INFORMATION REGARDING THE RAJA PERMAISURI

AGUNG'S PERSONAL PREFERENCES AND HABITS IS NOT READILY
AVAILABLE. WE WILL REPORT ANY FUTHER DETAILS WE
CAN OBTAIN BY IMMEDIATE SEPTTEL.
UNDERHILL

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